

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 1505 – SB 2112

February 26, 2014

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Requires the Department of Children's Services (DCS) to immediately release certain information, including a child's age, gender, a history of the department's involvement with the child's family and a brief summary of the known circumstances surrounding a child's death, when a child was the subject of an ongoing investigation or where an initial investigation indicates the fatality may have resulted from child abuse or neglect. At the conclusion of DCS's investigation, the department must release a full report indicating whether abuse or neglect are found and if so the report must include any action taken by DCS or the district attorney general. Authorizes the redaction of the report to comply with current confidentiality requirements.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (013184): Deletes all language after the enacting clause. Requires DCS to release the child's age, gender, and a history of the department's involvement with the child within five business days of the child's fatality as a result of abuse or neglect. At the closure of DCS's investigation, the department must release the final disposition of the case, whether the case meets criteria for a child death review, and the full case file. Following DCS's final classification of a child abuse or neglect near fatality, the department shall release a full case file. Authorizes the redaction of any case file to comply with current confidentiality requirements.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- According to DCS, current law requires the department to release the child's age, the child's gender, and if there is previous history with the child. Upon closing the case, the department releases the case classification and whether the case meets the criteria for

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review by the Child Death Review Team. Records in fatality cases are regularly redacted and released in a de-identifying manner.

- Any increase in expenditures incurred due to the changes in reporting requirements will not be significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucian" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/kml